

Message Text

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- GLEYSTEEEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081198

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, APU, JA

SUBJECT: US CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVERS AT APU ASSEMBLY

REF: TOKYO 1367

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION'S (APU) MEMBERSHIP HAS SHRUNK IN RECENT YEARS BECAUSE OF THE COLLAPSE OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OTHERS. AS A RESULT OF THESE REDUCTIONS AND BECAUSE THE APU IS ONE OF THE FEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THE ROC IS STILL REPRESENTED, THE APU HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IDENTIFIED, IN ASIAN EYES, WITH THE ROC AND POSITIONS CRITICAL OF US POLICY TOWARD CHINA. AS A CONSEQUENCE THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO MINIMIZE THE USG'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE APU. OUR INTEREST IN PROMOTING DIET-CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS WILL BE CONTINUED THROUGH OTHER EXISTING PROGRAMS.

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2. SHOULD THE JAPANESE APU MEMBERS APPROACH THE EMBASSY AGAIN ABOUT US CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVERS AT THIS YEAR'S APU ASSEMBLY, YOU SHOULD INFORM THEM THAT THE DEPT DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS TO COVER THE TRAVEL OF US CONGRESSIONAL

OBSERVERS TO THE ASSEMBLY. SHOULD THEY WISH TO PURSUE THEIR INTEREST IN US OBSERVERS FURTHER, THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO DIRECTLY THROUGH THEIR OWN CONTACTS IN THE CONGRESS.

3. AS THE ASSEMBLY APPROACHES, THE EMBASSY MAY WELL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE, SUCH AS A LETTER OF WELCOME TO THE DELEGATES, OR INVITED TO JOIN IN SOME OF THE ASSEMBLY'S ACTIVITIES. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEM THIS MAY POSE FOR YOUR CONTACTS WITH INDIVIDUAL DIET MEMBERS, THE EMBASSY SHOULD IN GENERAL ADOPT AS LOW A PROFILE AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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